

# Senate Joint Resolution 7 - Introduced

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_  
BY ZAUN

Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of  
2 the State of Iowa to change the length of term of office and  
3 limit the term of service of members of the general assembly.  
4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:  
5 TLSB 2410XS 83  
6 sc/rj/5

PAG LIN

1 1 Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of  
1 2 the State of Iowa is proposed:  
1 3 1. Section 3 of Article III of the Constitution of the  
1 4 State of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu  
1 5 thereof:  
1 6 REPRESENTATIVES == CLASSIFICATION. SEC. 3. The members of  
1 7 the House of Representatives shall be chosen by the qualified  
1 8 electors of their respective districts, and their term of  
1 9 office shall commence on the first day of January following  
1 10 their election which is not a Sunday or legal holiday, and  
1 11 continue four years, and until their successors are elected  
1 12 and qualified. Representatives shall be classified by statute  
1 13 so that as nearly as possible one-half of the members of the  
1 14 House of Representatives shall be elected every two years. A  
1 15 person shall not be elected for a term as Representative if  
1 16 the term would result in more than a total of twelve years of  
1 17 service as a Representative. If a person is elected to serve  
1 18 a portion of a term to which some other person was elected but  
1 19 that person died in office or resigned from office or was  
1 20 otherwise removed from office, those years served shall not be  
1 21 included in the years of service for purposes of this  
1 22 limitation. This limitation on the years of service shall  
1 23 only apply to terms of office beginning on or after January 1,  
1 24 2015.  
1 25 The General Assembly shall make such changes in the law  
1 26 governing the time of election and terms of office of  
1 27 Representatives as shall be necessary to make the time of  
1 28 their election and terms of office conform to this amendment.  
1 29 2. Section 5 of Article III of the Constitution of the  
1 30 State of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu  
1 31 thereof:  
1 32 SENATORS == QUALIFICATIONS. SEC. 5. Senators shall be  
1 33 chosen for a term of six years, at the same time and place as  
1 34 Representatives; they shall be twenty-five years of age, and  
1 35 possess the qualifications of Representatives as to residence  
2 1 and citizenship. A person shall not be elected for a term as  
2 2 Senator if the term would result in more than a total of  
2 3 twelve years of service as a Senator. If a person is elected  
2 4 to serve a portion of a term to which some other person was  
2 5 elected but that person died in office or resigned from office  
2 6 or was otherwise removed from office, those years served shall  
2 7 not be included in the years of service for purposes of this  
2 8 limitation. This limitation on the years of service shall  
2 9 only apply to terms of office beginning on or after January 1,  
2 10 2015.  
2 11 The General Assembly shall make such changes in the law  
2 12 governing the time of election and terms of office of Senators  
2 13 as shall be necessary to make the time of their election and  
2 14 terms of office conform to this amendment.  
2 15 3. Section 6 of Article III of the Constitution of the  
2 16 State of Iowa, as amended by amendment number 3 of the  
2 17 Amendments of 1968, is repealed and the following adopted in

2 18 lieu thereof:

2 19 SENATORS == NUMBER AND CLASSIFICATION. SEC. 6. The number  
2 20 of Senators shall total not more than one-half the membership  
2 21 of the House of Representatives. Senators shall be classified  
2 22 by statute so that as nearly as possible one-third of the  
2 23 members of the Senate shall be elected every two years.

2 24 4. Section 35 of Article III of the Constitution of the  
2 25 State of Iowa, as amended by amendment number 4 of Amendments  
2 26 of 1868, amendment number 2 of the Amendments of 1904, and  
2 27 amendment number 3 of the Amendments of 1968, is repealed and  
2 28 the following adopted in lieu thereof:

2 29 SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES == NUMBER AND DISTRICTS. SEC.  
2 30 35. The General Assembly shall in each year immediately  
2 31 following the United States decennial census determine the  
2 32 number of Senators and Representatives to be elected to the  
2 33 General Assembly and establish senatorial and representative  
2 34 districts. The General Assembly shall complete the

2 35 apportionment prior to September 1 of the year so required.

3 1 If the apportionment fails to become law prior to September 15  
3 2 of such year, the Supreme Court shall cause the State to be  
3 3 apportioned into senatorial and representative districts to  
3 4 comply with the requirements of the Constitution prior to  
3 5 December 31 of such year. The reapportioning authority shall,  
3 6 where necessary in establishing senatorial and representative  
3 7 districts, shorten the term of any Senator or Representative  
3 8 prior to completion of the term. Any Senator or  
3 9 Representative whose term is so terminated shall not be  
3 10 compensated for the uncompleted part of the term.

3 11 Sec. 2. REFERRAL AND PUBLICATION. The foregoing amendment  
3 12 to the Constitution of the State of Iowa is referred to the  
3 13 General Assembly to be chosen at the next general election for  
3 14 members of the General Assembly and the Secretary of State is  
3 15 directed to cause the same to be published for three  
3 16 consecutive months previous to the date of that election as  
3 17 provided by law.

3 18 EXPLANATION

3 19 This joint resolution proposes a constitutional amendment  
3 20 relating to length of term and term of service for members of  
3 21 the general assembly. The amendment provides that the length  
3 22 of term of office for members of the house of representatives  
3 23 shall be four years and for members of the senate the length  
3 24 of term of office shall be six years. The amendment provides  
3 25 that one-third of the members of the senate and one-half of  
3 26 the members of the house of representatives are to be elected  
3 27 every two years. The amendment also provides that members of  
3 28 the Iowa house of representatives shall not serve more than 12  
3 29 years as a representative and that members of the Iowa senate  
3 30 shall not serve more than 12 years as a senator. If a person  
3 31 serves a portion of a term to which some other person was  
3 32 elected, the partial term shall not be included in the years  
3 33 of service. The limitation on the years of service shall only  
3 34 apply to terms of office beginning on or after January 1,  
3 35 2015.

4 1 The resolution, if adopted, would be referred to the next  
4 2 general assembly before being submitted to the electorate for  
4 3 ratification.

4 4 LSB 2410XS 83

4 5 sc/rj/5